POPULATION TODAY

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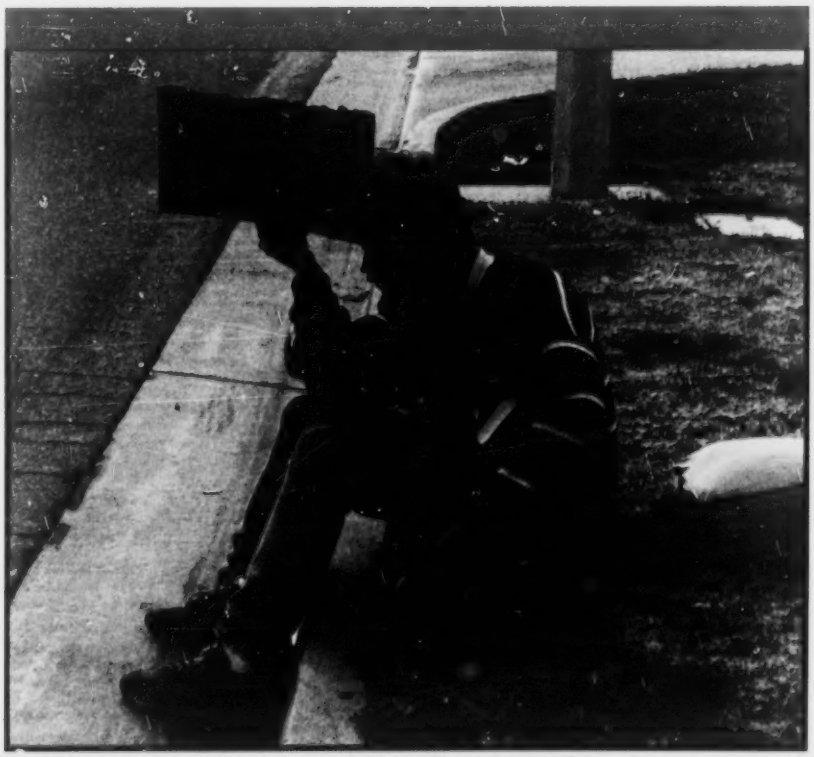

Stereotypes of the underclass don't always fit, see page 6.

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

The ideal father: 1990s model. A plane flies overhead. Down on the grassy knoll, a winsome toddler spreads out his arms and runs behind it, pretending to fly. The young father looks on, his sensitive face cherishing the intimate moment.

The airplane bears the logo of USAir, but we see glimpses of America's new model father in other TV ads: heading for McDonalds or the "family villages" of Club Med. Americans have long idealized father and family. "Leave It to Beaver" mythologized the father of the 1950s, while Bill Cosby defined fatherhood for the 1980s.

The 1990s ideal is just emerging. He is the thirtysomething baby boomer, domesticated but never dull, a conscientious caregiver, pushing a stroller.

But while the advertising industry is creating an admirable role model, how well does this image reflect current realities of American family life? A large minority of U.S. children don't see much of their fathers at all. The prevalence of divorce, remarriage, and nonmarital births seems to be eroding the cultural norm that fathers live with and financially support their biological children.

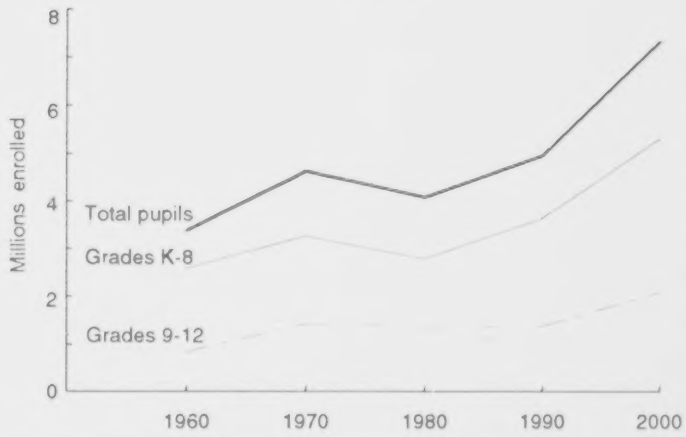
About half of children will spend some time in a single-parent family, demographer Larry Bumpass points out, most of these involving an absent father. Judith Seltzer and Suzanne Bianchi found that about half of all children living apart from their fathers see them less than once a month. Another study showed that half of older children (ages 11-16) in the same situation see their fathers once a year or less frequently. Relatively few divorced mothers receive child support.

As fathers change marriage partners they are switching *children* as well. Men tend to live with, support, and parent the children of their current wife. Seltzer and Bianchi call this "serial" parenting (like serial monogamy). Children whose relationship with father actually resembles the new ideal may be fewer than we think.

—Susan Kalish

SPEAKING GRAPHICALLY

Immigration Brings California a "Pupil Boom"



Sources: Jim Parker, "California's Critical Shortage of School Buildings," *Trends* Vol. 4, No. 1, June 1991, Los Angeles County Office of Education, and unpublished data.

There will be a projected 7.3 million pupils in California's public schools in the year 2000, one and one-half times as many as the school system counted in 1990 (4.9 million). The oncoming pupil boom will outnumber the 4.6 million enrolled in 1970, the peak of the baby-boom era.

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Recycled Paper

UN Adds Population to Environment/ Development Dialogue

A year ago, it looked as if population-environment linkages would be brushed off at UNCED, the first-ever United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro this June. Now, population-environment advocates have not only convinced conference planners of the relevance of their issues—but they are pleased with the way it appears the issues will be framed.

Even before preparations began in earnest a year ago for the June "Earth Summit," planners have quietly wrestled over the proper treatment of population at UNCED. The conference was originally to be the second UN conference on the environment, the first having taken place in Stockholm in 1982. Development issues were added to the agenda in response to criticism that the environmental recommendations of the Stockholm conference had failed to take into consideration the development goals of Third World nations.

Delegates to the first planning meeting, "Prepcom 1," in 1990 in Nairobi, purposely excluded population issues as peripheral and potentially divisive. Some Third World delegates feared that developed countries might condition their development assistance on reductions in population growth rates. Others objected to any linkages of Third World population growth with environment issues, arguing that the extravagant consumption habits of developed countries had a much greater environmental impact. Later, Maurice Strong, secretary general of the UNCED meeting, recognized population as a key "cross-cutting issue." It was agreed that population would be brought up with every relevant topic.

Lost in the Shuffle?

However, fearing that population issues would get lost in the shuffle, advocates went to "Prepcom 3" in Geneva, last August, prepared to do battle to win population a place on the agenda. A compromise was struck: population would be placed on the agenda as long as the lavish consumption rates of the industrialized countries would also be up for discussion.

Statements on population-environment-development linkages—with input from concerned organizations such as the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Sierra Club, the Population Crisis Committee, Zero Population Growth, The Futures Group, Worldwatch Institute, and the National Wildlife Federation—were incorporated into the circulating draft agenda.

Now, population issues have "a much better chance of constructive discussion" at UNCED, said Dr. Nafis Sadik, executive director of UNFPA in a recent interview. "I am sure that a consensus will be reached if everyone is prepared to be constructive."

The draft statements discuss demographic dynamics and sustainability, combating poverty, and changing consumption patterns. Discussions of environmental threats posed by rapid population growth are linked with an analysis of the environmental damage caused by excessive consumption.

The document calls not only for sustainable development rather than boom-and-bust extractive industry, but "sustainable livelihoods" for Third World poor and "sustainable consumption patterns" for developed countries. Concern is also expressed for population groups that may be particularly vulnerable to environmental degradation, such as native peoples and coastal dwellers.

Emotionally Laden

The population dynamics statement calls for "policies...incorporating measures to bring about the demographic transition," but as part of a "holistic view of development, where alleviation of poverty, secure livelihoods, health, quality of life, improvement of the status and income of women, fulfillment of her personal aspirations, empowerment of individuals and communities are the ultimate goals." Anything that suggests limiting population growth could be a flashpoint. Indeed, in negotiations, the words "family planning" may be struck in favor of the less emotionally laden terms "reproductive health programs" or even "responsible parenthood" (which the Holy See is said to prefer). Similarly, the less sensitive term "demographics" might be substituted for "population."

Another area of concern is trade barriers, which can operate to keep modern contraceptives out of less developed countries.

The main business of UNCED is concern over "degeneration of global life-support systems." Delegates will adopt an Earth Charter of environmental principles and an environmental work program, Agenda 21. They are expected to negotiate conventions (international agreements) on climate change and biodiversity. Population issues will play only a small part. Still, a conference like UNCED can have great educational value in many areas.

One concept that advocates hope will come through loud and clear is *population momentum*. In many countries, even if the rate of childbearing falls dramatically, the population would still continue to grow for a long time because of the large number of young women entering reproductive age.

As Sadik commented: "We are going to have more people—a lot more people—in 2025 than we have now, whatever we do. The point is to slow down growth so that the numbers of people don't overwhelm our capacity—the world's capacity—to cope. That is a very important idea that everyone involved with the environment and development should take to heart. Not fewer people—but a few less people."

If the draft statements survive the month-long scrutiny of delegates to "Prepcom 4," this March, they will go to UNCED as a small but significant part of Agenda 21, one of the major documents that UNCED will produce. As such, the statements would help lay the intellectual foundation for another first-ever UN meeting: the UN Conference on Population and Environment, planned for 1994.

—Susan Kalish and Win Carty

Making the Census "GO"

Ten years ago CD-ROM (compact disk read-only memory) was experimental technology, used by only a few. Now, the Census Bureau is sending 1990 Census data on CD-ROM to most of its depository libraries and is marketing CD-ROM disks to the general public.

The "GO" software, included by the Census Bureau on every CD-ROM, is so simple to use that it seems likely to make data "crunchers" out of many users who would have simply cited a figure or two from a printed volume in the past. In fact, GO is so straightforward that the Census Bureau thought it unnecessary to send along written instructions.

This article, prepared by Jane Cramer of the Brooklyn College Library, is intended to fill that gap for first-time users of GO. Users can also access census data on CD-ROM through dBase or Paradox.—S.K.

The 1990 Census on CD-ROM works. The STF1-A files, which contain the short-form data (such as age, race, sex, and basic housing information), asked of 100 percent of those enumerated, are ready—complete with GO software for immediate use.

Much Improved

Staff at our census depository library first used GO on the PL-94 disk for congressional redistricting last April. In that preliminary version, GO was awkward to use. For example, census tract data users were frustrated by the software automatically resetting to A or 1 after each table. Woe to the student looking for tracts 925-930. When the STF1-A disks arrived in October, however, we were astonished with the improvements in the GO software.

The new GO is menu driven. It has an A-Z (first letter) index activated by typing the first letter of the desired geographical unit. (For example, once in the city list, type *M* to bring up *M*orristown.) F1 opens a box for instant access to any tract number, and tables can be downloaded to diskette as well as printed.

GO does not aggregate geographical units, but users can store the data they want on their own diskettes, take it away with them, and use a statistical software package of their choice to make further manipulations. Several faculty patrons did this within the desktop and mainframe environments. There is no need for the user to rekey the data.

Using GO

The STF1-A files for the entire United States are contained on 17 CD-ROM disks. The same amount of information would take up 93 computer tapes. Some states, like New York or California, take up an entire disk; other disks contain two or more neighboring states. To start, access the appropriate drive and, after the prompt appears, type "GO" to start the program.

Move the highlight bar to the state you need, and press "Enter." Be patient while the drive reads the disk. A menu of geographic subdivisions appears—ranging from entire states to block groups, congressional districts, and American Indian reservations. Select the level you wish to search by moving the highlight bar and pressing Enter. Some smaller geographic units require detailed knowledge of geographic codes which can be obtained from block group or census tract maps.

Unless you select "State," the next screen will offer a list of substate units: cities, towns, counties, or tracts. Type the first letter of the location to use the A-Z index to move quickly through the list. After the name appears on the screen, hit Enter again to confirm your selection.

To find a specific census tract, press F1 and a box appears in the upper-right portion of the screen. Type in the number of the tract and press enter. When the number appears, press Enter again to confirm your selection.

Selecting a geographic unit brings up a list of available tables: 37 population and 63 housing tables. Choices include the general profile (which contains all the information from the short-form Census questionnaire) plus a variety of cross-tabulations based on age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, or housing type. Select with the highlight bar and press Enter. After viewing the table, you may "Print" it—that is, send the data to the printer or to a disk ("File"). Printing involves making some choices. Press "P." First you will be asked if you want either 1) "Complete table for this area" or 2) "Single item for several areas." Be wary of choice 2. It brings up data for *all* the like geographic units in the data base. When learning this software, library staff accidently printed a lengthy report of 12-year-old Hispanic females in New York by county.

Downloading files to diskettes is fast and easy. A Copy File option allows you to store the file in ASCII flat, ASCII delimited, or dBase. A Browse command lets you view the same type of data for other areas.

You can move between tables for the same location, or any other place on the same CD using the Escape key. When finished, use the End key to exit to DOS.

The library's entire documents division staff is now trained to help patrons with STF1-A on CD-ROM. It takes only about 10 minutes to orient users who need multiple tables to carry on themselves. Before summer, we hope to make the Census available on a LAN (local area network), along with other government CDs, such as the National Trade Data Bank, the City and County Databook, and the Hazardous Materials Information System.

Many of the STF1-A CD-ROMs are available from the Census Bureau or the Government Printing Office for $150 each. STF1-B, C, and D are expected later this year. SFT3-A CD-ROMs, with economic data, are scheduled for late 1992 or early 1993. Consult the bureau's *Monthly Product Announcement* for availability or call the Clearinghouse for Census Data Products at 301-763-1580.

—Jane Cramer

Jane Cramer is document librarian at the Brooklyn College Library.

House Committee Gains Adjusted Census Data

Adjusted data from the 1990 Census will soon be available to researchers, local jurisdictions, and other interested parties. But, you won't be able to get the data from the Census Bureau. At this point, the primary distributor is the House Subcommittee on Census and Population.

In a much-debated but not unexpected action last July, then-Secretary of Commerce Robert Mosbacher decided not to use the adjusted figures as the official 1990 census findings. More controversial was his decision not to release them at all.

Parties to a long-term lawsuit over census adjustment—involving New York City, Los Angeles, and other jurisdictions—received the adjusted data in November through a court order, but were required to keep them under wraps. In December, before Sawyer's committee, Commerce Undersecretary Michael Darby called the adjusted figures seriously "flawed." He provided a memo from bureau Director Barbara Bryant indicating that the adjusted figures in their current state exaggerate the census undercount by about one-third.

The Census Bureau prepared the adjusted figures last July by statistically weighting the counts according to a complex set of 1,392 factors, taken from the bureau's 1990 Post-Enumeration Survey. The adjusted data indicates only age, race, and sex—nothing on housing, family relationship, education level, or income. The procedure was designed to compensate for the national undercount originally estimated at an average of 2.1 percent, in which some groups—notably minorities and inner-city residents—were disproportionately missed. In December, the bureau estimated the undercount at 1.5 percent.

Last summer, the statistical community split on whether to make a first-time-ever adjustment to the U.S. census. Bryant and seven of a nine-member Census Bureau Undercount Steering Committee recommended in favor of adjustment.

Repeated requests for the adjusted data by Tom Sawyer (D-OH), chairman of the House Subcommittee on Census and Population climaxed in a November 19 subpoena. The Department of Commerce first suggested providing data for every tenth census block and, then, in late December, met Sawyer's compromise offer of a random sample of 50 percent of the data.

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by Peter Alsberg—The Washington Post

The adjusted counts, on 52 reels of computer tape, arrived at the subcommittee January 23. The tapes contain adjusted data for a random sample of half the nation's 6.9 million census blocks, as well as aggregate adjusted inforrnation for all states and for counties, cities, towns, and other local jurisdictions with populations of 1,000 or more, according to the Council on Professional Associations on Federal Statistics. The committee has sent the tapes to the National Academy of Sciences Committee on National Statistics, which, under the Decennial Census Improvement Act, will advise Congress on the 2000 Census.

Meanwhile, on January 15, Mosbacher quit Commerce to work on President Bush's re-election campaign, leaving Rockwell Schnabel as acting secretary. The compromise may have been pushed forward by a desire to resolve the contentious data availability question, before the beginning of the Senate confirmation hearings for businesswoman Barbara Franklin, President Bush's nominee for commerce secretary.

What difference will the adjusted figures make, coming out now? For most users, probably not much. The adjusted data, which show larger populations of urban dwellers and minorities than do the official census figures, have some political implications. Yet, many jurisdictions have already drawn up their new districts. The numbers' unofficial status will undermine their evidentiary value in arguing for changes in voting boundaries or public fund allocations.

Researchers will find the data of limited utility, since the file contains only information necessary for reapportionment, not social or economic characteristics. For business users, whose bottom line was not much affected by the undercount in the first place, the existence of two sets of census numbers in itself could be a headache, commented Ken Hodges of Donnelley Marketing Information Services.

Local school and health planners in heavily undercounted communities could potentially get the most mileage out of the adjusted figures. John Hedderson, a demographer in Los Angeles County, where the undercount was 4.6 percent (or 430,000 people missed), said of the adjusted data: "Although it will be awkward, we will probably eventually work with them. They will be better than any adjustment we could do, because they are based on smaller geographical areas.

"There are people who just want to work with one set of numbers," commented Hedderson, "but we have entered a new era—where there will be two counts, even if not official."

—Susan Kalish

To request the adjusted 1990 Census data for the United States or individual states contact Rep. Tom Sawyer's office, or Paul DesJardin, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, 777 N. Capitol St. NE, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20002-4201. Phone (202) 962-3293, FAX (202) 962-3201. The council will make copies available at $200 per tape plus shipping.

DEMOGRAPHER'S PAGE

Is There a Rural Underclass?

by William P. O'Hare and Brenda Curry-White

This article is based on The Rural Underclass: Examination of Multiple-Problem Populations in Urban and Rural Areas, *a PRB working paper.*

The terms *underclass* and *urban underclass* have become practically synonymous. However, the urban focus of underclass research is not the result of systematically applying a set of underclass criteria to the entire population. This becomes apparent if we examine the rural population for underclass characteristics—such as loose attachment to the workforce, unmarried parenthood, or being a high-school dropout. Following this type of definition, there were an estimated 736,000 rural adults in 1990 who could be characterized as members of a rural underclass. This little-noticed group is more than half the size of the much-studied underclass population in the central cities.

A decade has passed since political journalist Ken Auletta first popularized "underclass" as an umbrella term to characterize a diverse set of marginalized social groups, including the long-term unemployed, welfare mothers, and high-school dropouts. The underclass, wrote Auletta, "generally feels excluded from society, rejects commonly accepted values, suffers from behavioral as well as income deficiencies." Despite some nagging misgivings about the use of the underclass term,[1] many social scientists since then have worked to define the underclass population, measure its size, and identify the forces that draw people into it.

Definitions Work Both Ways

While almost all research on the underclass has limited itself to urban areas, there are striking parallels in socioeconomic and demographic trends for urban and rural populations. The poverty rate in rural America, like that in central cities, is persistently above the national average. In 1986, when the rural economy was in the deepest part of its recent slump, the poverty rate in rural America was equal to that in central cities (18 percent). The rural poor are more likely than the urban poor to be long-term poor—a central component of the underclass concept.

Another characteristic typically used to describe the underclass population is their concentration in high-poverty neighborhoods. Census Bureau data indicate that the rural poor, like their urban counterparts, tend to be concentrated in geographic areas where poverty rates are extremely high.[2] In 1990, about 24 percent of all people in rural areas resided in high-poverty communities, but 39 percent of the rural poor lived in areas with high poverty rates. Among blacks, 68 percent of the rural poor reside in high poverty areas—the same percentage as found among poor blacks in large cities. Among Hispanics, the proportion of rural poor in high poverty areas is somewhat lower than for Hispanics in large cities—44 versus 61 percent.

It has long been apparent that there are pockets of rural poverty that rival inner-city ghettos in terms of depth and persistence of poverty and deprivation. While some are places of long-standing poverty, such as Appalachia or the Mississippi Delta, others are relatively new, such as farming communities of the northern plain states.[3]

University of Chicago sociologist William J. Wilson argues that the out-migration of middle-class blacks from urban ghettos during the 1960s and 1970s was a major factor in the development of inner-city underclass areas.[4] Yet, rural areas have also been experiencing out-migration and population loss since the early 1980s. Rural areas saw a net out-migration of nearly 1 million people between 1986 and 1987 according to the Census Bureau, with the better educated more likely to go.

Many analysts identify the changing economic base of large cities as a factor in the emergence and growth of the urban underclass, citing in particular the decline of high-paying manufacturing jobs and the emergence of lower-paying service-sector jobs. Yet, a similar economic restructuring has taken place in the rural areas. Many of the industries that are the backbone of the rural economy (farming, mining, timber, and routine manufacturing, for example) suffered declines during the 1980s.[5] Mechanization, automation, and the exportation of jobs to countries with cheap labor are eliminating the need for workers with little

Table 1. Distribution of Multi-problem Individuals, 1990

	Number with underclass characteristics	Percent of population group in underclass
Total	**3,085,000**	**2.1**
Race		
White*	1,112,000	1.0
Black*	1,158,000	6.8
Other race*	143,000	2.9
Hispanic	672,000	5.5
Age		
19-34	1,719,000	2.6
35-49	825,000	1.6
50-64	541,000	1.7
Urban/rural residence		
Rural areas	736,000	2.4
Central city	1,279,000	3.4
Suburb	615,000	1.1
Region		
Northeast	541,000	1.8
Midwest	700,000	2.0
South	1,258,000	2.5
West	586,000	1.9

Source: Analysis of 1990 CPS data.
* Hispanics excluded
Note: Residence subtotals do not sum to total because CPS withheld 16 percent of residence codes to protect confidentiality.

William P. O'Hare is director of the Population and Policy Research Program and Brenda Curry-White is a senior research analyst at the Urban Research Institute, University of Louisville

Table 2. Underclass Adults: Rural and Central City, 1990

	Rural Areas		Central City	
	Percent of underclass	Percent of population group in underclass	Percent of underclass	Percent of population group in underclass
Total	**100%**	**2.4%**	**100%**	**3.4%**
Gender				
Male	53	2.6	40	2.8
Female	47	2.2	60	4.0
Age				
19-34	48	2.9	59	4.2
35-49	28	2.0	26	2.8
50-64	23	2.2	15	2.5
Race				
White*	55	1.5	17	1.0
Black*	32	9.1	49	7.5
Hispanic	8	7.0	29	6.7
Region				
Northeast	5	1.1	29	4.5
Midwest	19	1.4	27	4.3
South	65	3.5	23	2.6
West	11	2.1	21	2.7

Source: See Table 1.
*Hispanics excluded. "Other race" category is excluded.
Note: Subgroups may not add to total because of rounding.

education, who tend to be concentrated in both inner cities and rural areas.

How Big? How Poor? How Diverse?

Who are the American underclass? This article uses the term underclass to mean adults (age 19-64) with *all* of the following problematic characteristics:[6]

- Has not completed high school;
- Lives in a household that receives public assistance; and
- If female, is a never-married mother, or, if male, is long-term underemployed.

Poverty was not included as a criteria, since the term underclass is useful for distinguishing a group of people who are disconnected from society from those who are merely poor.

Using data from the 1990 March Current Population Survey (CPS), a nationally representative sample survey of about 55,000 households, the study identified a group of 3 million working-age people with this set of characteristics (see Table 1). They represented 2.1 percent of the working-age population in the United States. (Children age 18 and younger and elderly age 65 and older were excluded.) Four out of five were living in poverty (defined as family income below 125 percent of the official poverty level).

Nearly 7 percent of the black adult population was in the underclass compared with just 1 percent of white adults and 5.5 percent of Hispanic adults. The high prevalence of underclass characteristics among minorities and young adults conforms to popular images of the underclass population. Young adults (ages 19-34) are much more likely to be in the underclass as people ages 50 to 64.

Of those 84 percent for whom residence can be determined, more than one-quarter (28 percent) live in rural (nonmetropolitan) areas, almost half (49 percent) in central cities, and almost one-quarter (23 percent) in suburbs. (Here, suburbs refers to areas that are metropolitan but lie outside central cities.) The rate of underclass membership in rural areas is 2.4 percent, just below that in central cities (3.4 percent).

In striking contrast to the popular conception of the underclass being concentrated in the older industrial Frostbelt cities, many more underclass individuals were found in the South (1,258,000) than in the Northeast (541,000) or the Midwest (700,000). It should be remembered that the Census Bureau's South region stretches as far north as Delaware and as far west as Texas and Oklahoma.

Some major differences emerged between rural and urban groups (see Table 2). Women comprise less than half (47 percent) of the rural underclass, but account for 60 percent of the urban underclass. A higher share of young urban females who are never-married mothers may account for this difference.

The rural underclass also has proportionately fewer younger members and more older members. In 1990, less than half (48 percent) of the rural underclass were ages 19 to 34, whereas nearly three-fifths (59 percent) of the urban underclass were in this young age group. Young urban adults were more likely to exhibit underclass characteristics (4.2 percent) than their rural counterparts (2.9 percent). Older adults age 50 to 64 were a more prominent segment of the underclass in rural areas (23 percent) than in central cities (15 percent).

Differences in racial and ethnic composition were particularly striking. In rural areas, 55 percent of the underclass is non-Hispanic white compared with only 17 percent in central cities. Blacks account for about one-third (32 percent) of the rural underclass, but they make up nearly half (49 percent) of the urban underclass. Hispanics are also more prominent among the urban underclass (29 percent) than the rural underclass (8 percent). These rural-urban differences in racial and ethnic composition of the underclass reflect the urban concentration of blacks and Hispanics in general. The prevalence or rate of underclass membership among blacks is actually higher in rural areas (9.1 percent) than it is in urban areas (7.5 percent).

Most of the rural underclass—nearly two-thirds—is located in the South. In

Continued on next page

Demographer's Page
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contrast, the urban underclass is more evenly distributed among the four census regions. The underclass rate in the rural South (3.5 percent) is higher than in the urban South (2.6 percent). In the Northeast and Midwest, in contrast, the underclass rate in central cities is nearly four times that of rural areas.

Two major points emerge from this research. First, there is a large rural underclass that has not been recognized in the past by researchers. Second, blacks in the rural South actually have a higher prevalence of underclass characteristics than do blacks in the large cities of the urban North. Why? There are a number of potential explanations. It could be that the same factors that led to the emergence of a black underclass in northern cities (racism, selective out-migration, industrial change) were also present in the rural South. Another is that, as Nicholas Lemann hypothesizes, the black underclass of the urban industrial North may have its roots in the rural South: that poor blacks migrating to the large cities of the North brought underclass characteristics with them.[7] Scholars and policymakers who ignore the rural underclass will be missing a significant part of the portrait.

The full report, *The Rural Underclass: Examination of Multi-Problem Populations in Urban and Rural Areas* is available from PRB for $5.00.

Notes:

[1]See O'Hare and Curry-White, *The Rural Underclass*.

[2]U.S. Bureau of the Census, "Poverty in the United States: 1990", *Current Population Reports*, P-60, No. 175 (Washington, DC: GPO, 1991), table 9.

[3]Osha Gray Davidson, *Broken Heartland: The Rise of America's Rural Ghetto* (New York: The Free Press, 1990).

[4]William J. Wilson, *The Truly Disadvantaged: The Inner City, the Underclass, and Public Policy* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1987).

[5]David Brown and Kenneth Deavers, *Rural Economic Development in the 1980s* (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1987).

[6]Erol R. Ricketts and Isabel V. Sawhill used similar characteristics in defining underclass areas, see "Defining and Measuring the Underclass," *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 7/2 (1988), pp. 316-325.

[7]Nicholas Lemann, *The Promised Land: The Great Black Migration and How It Changed America* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1991).

SURVEY REPORT
Colombia

UNICEF/H. Cerni

Colombian children have fewer brothers and sisters now.

Twenty years ago, the women of Colombia averaged six children each and studies projected that childbearing would remain at this level through 1990. Contrary to those expectations, fertility dropped dramatically. Colombia's current total fertility rate (average lifetime births per woman) is 2.9, one of the lowest in Latin America.

The latest confirmation of fertility declines comes from Colombia's 1990 survey on contraceptive prevalence, demography, and health, conducted by PROFAMILIA (a private, nonprofit family planning organization) with technical assistance from IRD/Macro International and Colombia's National Census and Statistics Department. The survey interviewed 8,644 women, 75 percent of whom lived in urban areas. Sixty percent had secondary or higher education and 3 percent no education.

The survey shows that knowledge of contraceptive methods is all but universal among Colombian women—98.2 percent of fecund women and 99.7 percent of women in union know of a modern method. Forty percent of all interviewees (66 percent of women in union) use contraception. In Colombia, as around the world, voluntary female sterilization has become the most common family planning method, generally used by women who have completed their desired family size but are still of reproductive age. Female sterilization is used by 21 percent of women surveyed, followed by the pill (14 percent) and the IUD (12 percent). These findings represent a slight upturn in use of contraception since the previous survey in 1986.

Knowledge of where to obtain modern contraceptive methods is also almost universal: 98 percent of women in union and 94 percent of all interviewees could name a source of supply. Supply sources most often cited were PROFAMILIA (32 percent), pharmacies (29 percent), and government hospitals and health centers (19 percent).

Ideal family size averaged almost three children (2.6 children for all women and 2.8 for women in union). Yet, two children was the desire of more than half of women interviewed. Forty-three percent said that they want no more children; one in five women (20 percent) want to wait at least two years before having another child. Eleven percent wanted a child within the next two years.

Of the women who had children in the five years prior to the 1990 survey, 80 percent received medical prenatal care and 71 percent had a doctor present at delivery. Children's vaccination rates increased to about half.

Two new topics in this survey were AIDS awareness and domestic violence. Almost all interviewees knew of AIDS (97 percent), and 77 percent knew it could be spread through heterosexual relationships. As for domestic violence, two-thirds of women who have been in a union say that they had fights with their spouses; of these, 47 percent had been insulted and 29 percent had been beaten.

—Sara Adkins-Blanch

Louis Henry, 1911-1991

With the December 30th death of French demographer Louis Henry, the field lost a major figure.

His technique of family reconstruction was an important methodological contribution to historical demography. Henry used 16th- to 19th-century parish registers to calculate various demographic measures, such as birth rates, birth intervals, age at marriage, and death rates at different ages. This provided invaluable insights into the lives of ordinary people in past societies. Henry is also known for his description of the pre-transition demographic regime of high fertility and high, fluctuating mortality levels, and is credited with bringing into demography the concept of natural fertility. In addition, Henry worked on the demographic dynamics of the Third World, stages in the reproductive cycle, and models and measures of fertility. He published many seminal papers and books that are still key references.

Born in 1911 and trained as an engineer, Henry came to demography from service as an artillery officer in World War II. He began his demographic work at the National Institute of Demographic Studies (INED) in Paris in 1946 and taught at the Institute of Demography and the School of Advanced Studies in Applied Sciences in Paris. Henry retired in 1976. The International Union for the Scientific Study of Population named him IUSSP Laureate last October.

New Slide Show

PRB's World Population Slide Show provides helpful visuals for teaching or talks. A set of 15 vivid color maps illustrates birth rates, death rates, natural increase, infant mortality, TFR, life expectancy, and population growth and "doubling time" around the world. Also presented are age structure, contraceptive use, government view of fertility level, GNP per capita, percent urban, and population density. Information taken from PRB's *World Population Data Sheet*.

Contact Population Reference Bureau, 1875 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. Suite 520, Washington, DC 20009-5728 (1-800-877-9881). Price: $50 per set, $25 for members and educators.

Upcoming Conferences

• **PAA Annual Conference and associated meetings.** The Population Association of America will meet April 30-May 2, 1992, at the Radisson Hotel in Denver.

Contact: Jen Suter, 202-429-0891.

Associated meetings to be held before PAA include the following:

• **APLIC.** The Association of Population Libraries and Information Centers, April 27-30, with the theme "Population and Environment."

Contact William J. Record, 212-561-8040.

• **Psycho-social Workshop.** April 28-29.

Contact Susan Palmore 919-544-7040.

• **Federal-State Co-op Program.** April 27-29.

Contact Dianne Schmidley, 301-763-7964.

• **State Data Ctr. Prog.** April 26-27.

Contact Kim Jones, 301-763-1580.

• **Options Fellows Program Seminar.** April 29.

Contact Alex de Sherbinin, 202-483-1100.

• **Economic Demography Workshop.** April 29.

Contact Jacob Alex Klerman, 213-393-0411.

• **The Peopling of the Americas.** Will meet in Veracruz, Mexico, May 18-23, 1992, and will highlight population change in the New World since pre-Columbian times. Sponsored by five population associations in the Americas and the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population.

Contact: Bruno Remiche, IUSSP, 34, rue des Augustines, 4000 Liège, Belgium.

• **Fifth Annual Hunger Research Briefing and Exchange.** Will meet at Brown University, April 8-10, 1992. Sponsored by the Alan Shawn Feinstein World Hunger Program, and Interaction, the American Council for Voluntary Action.

Contact: Melissa Phillips, Briefing Coordinator, Brown University, Box 1831, Providence, RI 02912. Phone: 401-863-2700, Fax: 401-863-2192.

POPULATION UPDATE

Estimated United States Population:

As of November 1, 1991	253,610,000
As of November 1, 1990	250,969,000

The above estimates, based on the 1990 Census, include armed forces overseas and are from U.S. Bureau of the Census *Current Population Reports*, P-25, no. 1081.

Estimated World Population:

As of March 1992	5,446,000,000
Annual growth	93,000,000

Extrapolated from the mid-1991 population on PRB's *1991 World Population Data Sheet*.

Latest Provisional Statistics for the U.S.: September 1991

	12 months ending with September					
	Number		Rate			
	1991	1990	1991	1990	1989	1988
Live births	4,135,000	4,146,000	16.4	16.6	16.1	15.9
Deaths	2,149,000	2,174,000	8.5	8.7	8.7	8.9
Natural increase	1,986,000	1,972,000	7.9	7.9	7.4	7.0
Marriages	2,387,000	2,452,000	9.4	9.8	9.7	9.7
Divorces	1,180,000	1,190,000	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.8
Infant deaths	37,000	38,500	9.0	9.3	9.8	10.0

Note. Rates are given per 1,000 population, except for infant deaths, which are given per 1,000 live births.
Source. National Center for Health Statistics, *Monthly Vital Statistics Report*, vol. 40, no. 9 (1992).

Letter to the Editor

Dear PRB:

For years you have been reminding us that the U.S. population is moving South and West. But I didn't realize how earthshaking a trend this was until I looked at the Center of Population map in the latest *Population Today* [*PT* 12/91]. It appears that half of Philadelphia has slid into Delaware and Cleveland has left the shores of Lake Erie!

Counterbalancing this trend is the eastward shift of St. Louis, which you place in Illinois! Perhaps there is a story here about demographic influences on plate tectonics. Or is this just another example of the problems of putting a TIGER in a box?

Yours in cartographic accuracy,

Reid T. Reynolds
State Demographer
Colorado

Census Bureau

"The eastward shift of St. Louis" (partial map)

Reply: Oops! We obtained the map showing the progress of the geographic Center of U.S. Population since 1790 from the Census Bureau. However, the responsibility for noting inaccuracies is ours.

—S.K.

Retiring by Fits and Starts

Americans retire gradually, says a recent study by the Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI). Six out of ten U.S. workers leave career employment before age 60, but almost two-thirds of workers remain in the labor force following the end of their longest-held job.

For more information see "The Work and Retirement Patterns of Older Americans," EBRI Issue Brief No. 121 (December 1991). EBRI, 2121 K Street NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20037-1896, (202) 659-0670.

TAKE A NUMBER

Censuses from around the world. Population growth during the 1980s was slower than expected, according to preliminary results of Brazil's census, "Censo-91." The 1991 count of 146 million was about 6 million less than projected. Lower-than-expected censuses seem to be something of a trend. Many counts during the 1990 "round" have been coming in low, including Mexico, Spain, and the United States. Except for the western rain forest state of Rondônia, all of the the seven states of Brazil for which data were reported had growth rates below 3 percent annually. Rondônia posted a lofty 7.9 percent annual rate due to heavy in-migration. In 1980, 66 percent of Rondônia's population were immigrants.

Does the low count really represent slower growth? Maybe not. Censo-91 had many problems, not the least of which was a strike by census workers in the month preceding the count. As a result, many field operations were late in starting.

Islands in the datastream. The world's "little countries" deserve a look, too. They may be small, but they probably take some of the most accurate censuses around. Pitcairn Island's annual report of population to the UN was 52 people for 1990, almost certainly the world's only absolutely complete census. The 114th annual report of the Isle of Man gives a count of 64,282 for the 1986 Census, only a little more than the first census total of 52,387 in 1851. Statistical reports from small countries can get quite folksy: the Isle of Man lists doctors and ministers in the country by name! In Jersey, one of the major islands of the Channel Islands, the March 1991 Census is now reported as 84,082. Rather rapid growth is indicated by census results in the Maldives which had a count of 213,215 in 1990, well up from 142,832 in 1977.

—Carl Haub

ADDENDA

Ticked off about the Bioclock. This portrait of dad and baby is but one face of the Bioclock, or Swiss Lady Watch, a novelty timepiece designed to keep a record of the female reproductive cycle. A woman can set the Bioclock to show her fertile and infertile days, as well as the most likely days to conceive a boy or girl. Other watch faces feature a handful of lilies, Adam and Eve, an apple with a bite taken out, and logos such as "FUN" and "Boy/Girl CHAT."

A Miami-based American firm, Fidelity Electronics, imported a supply of the Swiss product and was all set to market it in the United States. Glossy advertising brochures had been prepared showing the watch to be "approved by Dr. Joyce Brothers" (approved for what was not clear).

Then the U.S. Food and Drug Administration stepped in. The FDA judged the Bioclock to be a medical device, and ruled it would have to undergo extensive testing to gain approval. For a time, it appeared the device would be available in Canada, but it was withdrawn from the market there as well, the company citing "lack of consumer interest." *—S.K.*

CURRENT READINGS

LIFE IN BLACK AMERICA, ed. by James S. Jackson. Newbury Park, CA: Sage Publications, 1991. 311 pp. ISBN: 0-8039-3537-4. $16.95 paperback.

This book is the first comprehensive product of a landmark social science research project on black Americans that was started over ten years ago. The project is being carried out by a multidisciplinary team of social scientists at the University of Michigan, organized under the Program for Research on Black Americans. An edited work, each chapter is written by a specialist.

The book takes a life-cycle approach, covering topics such as neighborhood life, family life, religious life, work life, joblessness, retirement, physical and mental health, race identity, and political action. A major strength is the quality of the data that the program has collected in eight interconnected data sets. These provide representative national samples of such typically undersampled groups as young and mentally disabled black Americans; they also supply data on blacks according to political participation and generational status (child, parent, grandparent).

The project hopes to restart the engine of policy research on blacks, which has long been stalled in a debate over the relative importance of race versus economic and social structural factors in explaining black-white status differentials. The introduction states: "...social science paradigms of deficit and problems, which were common in the early 1960s and are even more popular today, are not sufficient in the development of frameworks...to adequately account for observed race-related maltreatment and pathological reactions of individual blacks and black communities; nor could this approach be helpful in the development of public policies to address the underlying issues and remedies...."

There is some attempt to supply a new perspective: one that emphasizes the mechanisms that blacks use, individually and collectively, to mediate a society in which they face disadvantages that arise from *both* social/economic structure and racism. Different chapters use this paradigm with varying degrees of success—understandable, since the authors must do so while respecting the research tradition of their individual topics and staying within the bounds of empiricism.

Life in Black America provides some interesting findings about the lives of African Americans, many of which have policy relevance. It seems quite likely that the ongoing work of this program may move policy towards the core perspective of life for African Americans outlined in this book.

—Taynia Mann

HUMAN GEOGRAPHY: Landscapes of Human Activities (3rd edition), by Jerome Fellmann, Arthur Getis, and Judith Getis. Dubuque, IA: Wm. C. Brown Publishers, 1990. ISBN: 0-697-13289-7.

Back in the early 1980s when I took my first human geography course, the class received a bland undergraduate textbook describing mechanistic theories of spatial location. Topics such as innovation diffusion and transportation networks were analyzed in dry, uninspiring terms. It was clear from our heavy eyelids that this entire approach to human geography bore little relation to the world we knew.

Something has happened since that time. Perhaps geography as a discipline has realized that its attempts to ally itself with the hard sciences by generating complex statistical models of spatial interaction may have turned off student interest. In a bid to win back its market share of undergraduate enrollments, geography has returned to its natural strength: illuminating patterns of human activity in descriptive terms.

This text exemplifies the new approach. Lively chapters on culture, population, religion, economic and political activity, development, the environment, and urban systems are spiced with colorful maps, charts, photographs, and other illustrations. Overall, the book should receive high marks from the critics who really count: students.

—Alex de Sherbinin

Books Received

Rural Development and Population: Institutions and Policy, by Geoffrey McNicoll and Mead Cain. New York: Oxford University Press and the Population Council, 1990. $12.00

The Silent Revolution: The Informal Sector in Five Asian and Near Eastern Countries, A. Lawrence Chickering and Mohamed Salahdine, eds. San Francisco: International Center for Economic Growth, 1991. $12.95.

State of the World by Lester R. Brown, et al. Washington, DC: Worldwatch Institute, 1992. $10.95.

Beyond Green Belts: Managing Urban Growth in the 21st Century, by John Herington. London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 1990. $22.50

The World Bank and the Environment: A Progress Report Fiscal 1991. Washington, DC: World Bank, 1991. $8.95.

Bioethics: Issues and Perspectives, Susan Connor and Hernán Fuenzalida-Puelma, eds. Washington, DC: Pan American Health Organization, 1990. Scientific Publication No. 527. $24.00.

South America, Central America, and the Caribbean 1991, by Europa Publications. Florence, KY: Gale Research Inc., 1990. $220.00.

ZAIRE

Population: 37.8 million
Land area: 905,560 sq. mi.
Births per 1,000 population: 46
Deaths per 1,000 population: 14
Rate of natural increase: 3.1%
Total fertility rate: 6.1 children per woman
Infant mortality rate: 83 per 1,000 live births
Life expectancy: 52 years
Capital: Kinshasa

by Rhonda Smith

Amid growing resistance to autocratic rule, Zaire's President Mobutu Sese Seko, who has held absolute power in this impoverished central African nation for 26 years, recently agreed to let opposition leaders form a new coalition government. This historic announcement, in October 1991, followed incidents of looting and violence touched off by soldiers left unpaid. The riots, in turn, triggered a massive evacuation of foreigners and an abrupt withdrawal of most foreign aid. A national conference was convened in early January to bridge differences between the old guard and prodemocracy forces. At this writing, the conference has been suspended and sporadic violence has resumed in several regions of the country.

At just under 38 million people, Zaire is the fifth most populous African nation. Occupying the major part of the Congo River basin and a small part of the Upper Nile, it covers an area approximately the size of the United States east of the Mississippi.

Despite rich mineral resources, including large copper deposits, Zaire has suffered a long-term erosion of its infrastructure and a recent collapse of its economy. In 1989, the government's macroeconomic stabilization program fell apart as public debt increased and crowded out private credit availability. This practice led to hyperinflation and a sharp decline in real incomes. Over the last 10 years, GDP growth (estimated at 2.6 percent) has remained below the population growth rate (3.1 percent). Per capita income remains among the lowest in Africa at US$260.

Despite its economic problems, Zaire has made remarkable progress in establishing an operational, decentralized health-care delivery system. Owing to an extensive private sector effort—an estimated 80 percent of health services are provided by religious groups, private enterprises and donor-supported community-based programs—basic health services reach about two-thirds of the vast interior population. Vaccination coverage rates rose from under 10 percent in 1982 to almost 46 percent in 1990. During that same period, infant mortality rates dropped 10 percent. Mortality of children under age five, currently estimated at 164 per 1,000, declined 35 percent since 1960.

The prevalence of HIV (AIDS' virus) in Kinshasa is estimated at 6 to 8 percent—low compared to neighboring countries. However, 3 percent of newborns in the capital are seropositive, with rural prevalence unknown. As in many African countries, the disease threatens to undermine further advances in reducing mortality.

Family planning services lag behind other primary health activities. Only an estimated 4 percent of women use modern contraceptives. A tendency to see population efforts as diversions from more serious issues, religious opposition, hostility to policies that might change women's traditional roles, and arguments that the country has much still-uninhabited land fuel pronatalist beliefs. At current growth rates, the population will double by the year 2013, making it difficult to maintain even the current substandard quality of life.

With increasing pressure for political reform, Zaire is at the threshold of a new chapter in its history. Conflicting political ideologies and a worsening economic crisis of unprecedented proportions suggest a long and formidable journey ahead.

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